

1. (currently amended) A heater subassembly for a solid state heater comprising:

a block body having a slot sized to receive a solid state heater material, the block body including a pair of opposing openings with the slot disposed therebetween, each opening in communication with one end of a bore in the block body, [[each]] another end of the bore terminating [[at one end]] in a terminal entrance;

a pair of terminals, one end of each terminal connected to a lead wire, the other end of each terminal including a spring, each terminal positioned in each bore, with a portion of each spring extending beyond the opening and into the slot; and

a heater made of a PTCR material or a NTCR material, a portion of the heater disposed in the slot and retained in place by the springs of the terminals.

2. (currently amended) A soft body heater comprising:

a) [[the]] a heater subassembly [[of claim 1]] including:

a block body having a slot sized to receive a solid state heater material, the block body including a pair of opposing openings with the slot disposed therebetween, each opening in communication with a bore in the block body, each bore terminating in a terminal entrance;

a pair of terminals, one end of each terminal connected to a lead wire, the other end of each terminal including a spring, each terminal positioned in each bore, with a portion of each spring extending beyond the opening and into the slot; and

a heater made of a PTCR material or a NTCR material, a portion of the heater disposed in the slot and retained in place by the springs of the terminals; and either

b) a soft casing completely surrounding the heater subassembly with the lead wires extending through the soft casing for connection to a power source or a soft casing surrounding a portion of the heater subassembly, a remaining portion of the heater subassembly covered by a molding compound.

3. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The soft body heater of claim 2, wherein comprising:

~~a) the heater subassembly of claim 1; and~~

~~b) a~~ the soft casing ~~[[surrounding]]~~ surrounds the ~~[[a]]~~ portion of the heater subassembly, ~~[[a]]~~ the remaining portion of the heater subassembly covered by ~~[[a]]~~ the molding compound.

4. (original) The soft body heater of claim 3, wherein the soft casing is molded around the heater subassembly.

5. (original) The soft body heater of claim 4, wherein the soft casing is formed with a cavity sized to receive the heater subassembly, the molding compound filling remaining portions of the cavity not occupied by the heater subassembly.

6. (original) A rigid body heater comprising:

a) the heater subassembly of claim 1; and

b) a rigid body having a cavity sized to receive the heater subassembly and envelop a portion thereof, a remaining portion of heater subassembly covered by a molding compound.

7. (original) The heater assembly of claim 1, wherein each opening is formed by a channel in the block body, each channel including a stop, with each spring terminal including a tang, the tang positioned on the terminal to engage the stop once the terminal is inserted to prevent removal of the terminal from the block.

8. (original) The soft body heater of claim 2, wherein each opening is formed by a channel in the block body, each channel including a stop, with each spring terminal including a tang, the tang positioned on the terminal to engage the stop once the terminal is inserted to prevent removal of the terminal from the block.

9. (original) The soft body heater of claim 3, wherein each opening is formed by a channel in the block body, each channel including a stop, with each spring terminal including a tang, the tang positioned on the terminal to engage the stop once the terminal is inserted to prevent removal of the terminal from the block.

10. (original) The rigid body heater of claim 6, wherein each opening is formed by a channel in the block body, each channel including a stop, with each spring terminal including a tang, the tang positioned on the terminal to engage the stop once the terminal is inserted to prevent removal of the terminal from the block.

11. (currently amended) A method of making a soft body heater comprising the steps of:

a) providing ~~[[the]]~~ a heater subassembly ~~[[of claim 1]]~~ including:

a block body having a slot sized to receive a solid state heater material, the block body including a pair of opposing openings with the slot disposed therebetween, each opening in communication with a bore in the block body, each bore terminating in a terminal entrance;

a pair of terminals, one end of each terminal connected to a lead wire, the other end of each terminal including a spring, each terminal positioned in each bore, with a portion of each spring extending beyond the opening and into the slot; and

a heater made of a PTCR material or a NTCR material, a portion of the heater disposed in the slot and retained in place by the springs of the terminals;

; and

b) forming a soft casing entirely around the heater subassembly or forming the soft casing with a cavity, inserting the heater subassembly into the cavity, and using a molding compound to cover a remaining portion of the heater subassembly.

12. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the soft casing is molded entirely around the heater subassembly.

13. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the soft casing is formed with the cavity, the heater subassembly is inserted in the cavity and the molding compound covers the remaining portion of the heater subassembly.

14. (original) A method of making a rigid body heater comprising the steps of:

- a) providing the heater subassembly of claim 1; and
- b) forming a rigid casing with a cavity;
- c) inserting the heater subassembly into the cavity; and
- d) using a molding compound to cover a remaining portion of the heater subassembly.

15. (currently amended) A heater subassembly terminal block comprising:

- a) a block body having a slot sized to receive a solid state heater material, the block body including a pair of opposing openings with the slot disposed therebetween, each opening in communication with one end of a bore in the block body, ~~[[each]]~~ another end of the bore terminating ~~[[at one end]]~~ in a terminal entrance; and

a pair of terminals, one end of each terminal connected to a lead wire, the other end of each terminal including a spring, each terminal positioned in each bore, with a portion of each spring extending beyond the opening and into the slot.

16. (original) The terminal block of claim 15, wherein each opening is formed by a channel in the block body, each channel including a stop, with each spring terminal including a tang, the tang positioned on the terminal to engage the stop once the terminal is inserted to prevent removal of the terminal from the block.

17. (currently amended) The terminal block of claim 15, wherein the block body has legs and a cross member forming a u-shape, with the openings positioned in the legs and the bores positioned in ~~[[a]]~~ the cross member connecting the legs.

18. (currently amended) The heater subassembly of claim 1, wherein the block body has legs and a cross member forming a u-shape, with the openings positioned in the legs and the bores positioned in ~~[[a]]~~ the cross member connecting the legs.

19. (currently amended) The terminal block of claim 15 ~~[[17]]~~, wherein each bore includes a slot wider than the bore to accommodate wide portions of the terminal.

20. (original) The heater subassembly of claim 1, wherein each bore includes a slot wider than the bore to accommodate wide portions of the terminal.